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INFO RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUFGAID/USCINCEUR INTEL VAHINGEN GE PRIORITY  
RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BUCHAREST 000199

SIPDIS

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STATE FOR EUR/NCE BILL SILKWORTH

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/03/16

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [KCRM](#) [ASEC](#) [SOCI](#) [MARR](#) [MOPS](#) [RO](#)

SUBJECT: VANGOETHEM VERDICT: PUBLIC OUTRAGE CONTINUES

REF: BUCHAREST 178

Classified By: Classified by Ambassador Nicholas Taubman for Reasons 1. 4 B and D

1. (C) Summary. The acquittal of former MSG Detachment Commander Christopher VanGoethem on January 31 of negligent homicide continues to receive  
2. (SBU) Romanian print and broadcast media for a third consecutive day focused extensively on the acquittal on negligent homicide charges, and  
3. (SBU) The press has also focused on details of the trial, asking if the Romanian government did all it could to ensure a fair review of the  
PM Tariceanu: Seeking a "Sense of Justice"

4. (C) Prime Minister Tariceanu, in a telephone conversation with the Ambassador February 3, expressed continued shock and surprise at the verdict  
5. (C) The Ambassador conveyed his deep concern about the situation following the verdict and understanding of the bitterness expressed by Pet  
Protesters: U.S. Should "Do What is Right"

6. (SBU) A group of roughly 30 artists and other protesters February 2 demonstrated in front of the U.S. Embassy and signed a letter protesting  
7. (SBU) Separately, the Embassy has learned of many other planned actions and protests in coming days. Among other activities, in a prominent  
Embassy Contacts At All Levels Express Outrage

8. (C) Views expressed directly by Embassy contacts have paralleled the strongly negative, often outraged, sentiments expressed by demonstrators  
9. (C) Comment: Since the announcement of the verdict, the Embassy - at all levels - has made every effort to demonstrate compassion, transparency  
TAUBMAN